

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A hearing protection assembly that allows a wearer to attenuate undesired external sounds and receive desired audio, comprising:

a first hearing protecting muff for attenuating sounds and receiving desired ~~aeoustic~~ audio signals, the muff enclosing an optical transmitter for transmitting optical signals representative of the received ~~aeoustic~~ audio signals; and

an ear-plug assembly including an optical receiver for receiving the transmitted optical signals, a transducer, and a passive circuit which transfers information from the optical signals to the transducer for providing acoustic signals representative of the acoustic signals received by the muff, the ear-plug assembly not including a battery.

Claim 2. (original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the optical transmitter includes one or more light emitting diodes (LEDs).

Claim 3. (currently amended) The assembly of claim 2, wherein the muff receives modulated ~~aeoustic~~ audio signals from a remote modulator and provides the signals to the LEDs.

Claim 4. (currently amended) The assembly of claim 2, wherein the muff incorporates a modulator for providing modulated ~~aeoustic~~ audio signals to the LEDs.

Claim 5. (original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the optical receiver includes a photovoltaic cell.

Claim 6. (currently amended) The assembly of claim 5, wherein the passive circuit in the ear-plug assembly includes a demodulator ~~and a transducer~~, the photovoltaic cell providing signals to the demodulator, which provides demodulated signals to the transducer.

Claim 7. (original) The assembly of claim 1, further comprising a second muff and a second ear-plug, each substantially the same as the first.

Claim 8. (original) The assembly of claim 7, wherein the first and second muffs receive and provide signals over separate channels.

Claim 9. (original) The assembly of claim 8, wherein each muff has separate modulator and buffer circuits.

Claim 10. (original) The assembly of claim 9, wherein the circuits for the muffs share use of an oscillator.

Claim 11. (currently amended) A method for providing hearing protection and desired audio signals, comprising:

a hearing protecting muff receiving an audio signal;

converting the audio signal to a light signal;

transmitting the light signal;

an ear-plug with a detector receiving the light signal signals and the energy in the light;

and

converting the optical signal to produce acoustic signals with a transducer without the use of a power source for operation of the ear-plug.

Claim 12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the transmitting includes transmitting one of visible or infrared light.

Claim 13. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the converting processes include using pulse width modulation and demodulation.

Claim 14. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising receiving the audio signal with a second muff, and transmitting a light signal to a second ear-plug over a separate channel.

Claim 15. (canceled)

Claim 16. (new) The method of claim 11, where the transducer has an impedance of about 50 ohms.

Claim 17. (new) A hearing protection assembly that allows a wearer to attenuate undesired external sounds and receive desired audio, comprising:

a first hearing protecting muff for attenuating sounds and receiving desired acoustic signals, the muff enclosing an optical transmitter for transmitting optical signals representative of the received audio signals; and

an ear-plug assembly including

i) an optical receiver for receiving the information transmitted in the optical signals and for capturing the optical energy for use in the ear-plug assembly;

ii) a circuit for transferring the optical information as electrical signals without an additional power source; and

Appl. No. : 10/060,158
Amendment Dated : March 17, 2005
Reply to Office Action of : December 17, 2004

Atty. Docket No. 0081279.120

iii) a transducer for receiving the electrical signal and for providing acoustic signals representative of the audio signals received by the muff, without an additional power source.

Claim 18. (new) The method of claim 17, where the ear-plug assembly consists essentially of a photovoltaic cell, a low pass filter, and a transducer.

Claim 19. (new) The method of claim 1, where the ear-plug assembly consists essentially of a photovoltaic cell, a low pass filter, and a transducer.

Claim 20. (new) The method of claim 11, where the ear-plug assembly consists essentially of a photovoltaic cell, a low pass filter, and a transducer.